GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3735
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016
Deep Sea Fishing
Roy Prof. Saugata

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE ???? ?? ???? ?????? ??????
be pleased to state:
a) whether the fishermen in the country are facing serious problems in deep sea fishing due to lack of adequate technology and proper deep sea fishing vessels;
b) if so, the details thereof;
c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the vessels procured for deep sea fishing have been lying unutilized for the last several years;
d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
e) whether deep sea fishing in the country has come to a grinding halt due to certain conditions imposed by the Government for having foreign collaboration in this field and if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)
(a) & (b) Marine fishing in India has been small-scale in nature and mostly confined to near shore or coastal waters. Therefore, resource specific vessels capable for undertaking long voyages for deep-sea fishing are usually not being fabricated in our country. Considering such shortfalls in the sector, the Indian entrepreneurs are allowed to procure technologically advanced resource-specific deep-sea fishing vessels (DSFVs) from other countries on outright purchase, deferred payment basis or on Joint Ventures with at least 51% Indian equity under the Guidelines for fishing operation in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The DSFVs are allowed to operate in the EEZ beyond territorial waters of 12 nautical miles after obtaining the Letter of Permission (LOP) as per the stipulated Guidelines.
(c) to (e) The operators of LOP holder DSFVs are allowed to deploy foreign crew to man resource specific fishing and technologically advanced DSFVs. However, clearances to foreign crew onboard DSFVs and operations of LOP holder DSFVs in the EEZ have been affected since 2011 due to change in the Guidelines for Employment Visa. As a part of corrective steps, a Committee has been constituted on 28th July, 2015 to review the Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy of 2004 and the Guidelines for operation of DSFVs in the Indian EEZ, and to draft a National Policy on Marine Fisheries (NPMF). The Draft of the NPMF has recently been submitted by the said Committee, which, inter alia, provides a vision to develop the deep-sea fisheries sector in the country.

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